

House Republican Press Release

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Rep Ryan: Local Arts Organization Receives State Grant



State Representative John J. Ryan, R-Darien, announced the state today provided \$5,347 in grant funds for the Shakespeare on the Sound organization, located in Rowayton. The funding, which assists the theater in its operating budget, is provided by the state's Arts Endowment Fund. The program was created by the State

Legislature to stimulate and encourage the development of private sector resources and assist in the stabilization of Connecticut arts organization.

Shakespeare on the Sound is committed to producing affordable, professional, open-air productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and related authors in Fairfield County. Performances have been staged in Rowayton's Pinkney Park since 1996 and more than 80,000 theater-goers and several thousand schoolchildren have benefited from the programs.

Working in collaboration with area civic, business and education institutions, the goal of Shakespeare on the Sound is to bring great dramatic works to a broad audience, creating a forum for learning, appreciation and celebration. Since its inception, the program has presented *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Winter's Tale*. In the summer of 2005, the organization plans to present *The Tempest*.

"Shakespeare on the Sound is one of the very best examples of a hard-working, wonderful community organization, that through the dedication and commitment of its many volunteers, adds immeasurably to the quality of our life," said Rep. Ryan. "If there is any doubt about the relevance in today's world of Shakespeare's timeless insights into the human condition, all you have to do is look at the stories in our daily newspapers. I am delighted that we can assist this very worthy organization, if only in this small way."